

AUGUSTANA FIVE TO BE CONTENDER FOR STATE TITLE

Conrad's Squad Rated as One of the Fastest to Take Part in Minor College Tournament.

LOCALS WIN 12 OUT OF 14 GAMES

Play to Begin Tomorrow at Bloomington—William and Vashli and Millikin Also Feared.

(BY PAUL DAHLEN.)

To uphold Augustana's honor on the chalked floor nine stalwart Swedes depart tomorrow for Bloomington, where they will meet comers from all parts of the state, the prize being the intercollegiate basketball title of Illinois for 1916. Groomed to the minute, the Augie lads go into the battle with dope placing them among the five fastest teams in the state and close scores showing them to be one of the most formidable fives in the tourney to be played at the Bloomington Y. M. C. A. tomorrow, Thursday and Friday, the semi-finals to be played Saturday afternoon, the big tilt for the cup to start at 3 o'clock Saturday evening.

Comparative scores indicate the locals as perhaps the fastest and most reliable aggregation in the "Little Eighteen" conference. With a record of 12 wins out of 14 games, the past season has been one of the most successful that the Lutherans have ever had, a total of 538 points to their credit as compared very favorably with the 316 counters garnered by their opponents, leaving a margin of 222 tallies on the credit side. William and Vashli upset Augie's hope for a clean sheet, the overconfidence of the locals making them an easy mark, 50 to 36, for the Alledons when the two fives met in the college gym Jan. 22, and in a return engagement in Vashli's arena Augie was again defeated, this time by five points, 23 to 18.

Vashli Team Speedy.

William and Vashli, however, is rated as one of the fastest teams in the state, and the western corner of the state is expected to make things hum at Bloomington. Bradley, usually boasting a long string of victories, this year admits two defeats by Augie and similar compliments from William and Vashli, Wesleyan and Millikin. The record of their gladiators has not discouraged the Polytechnic students of Peoria, for the last issue of the school monthly is dedicated to the earnest effort to bring home the trophy and hang it by the side of the one awarded to the state champs of 1915. The defeat of Bradley by Millikin simply shows the superior speed of the Decatur team, and the sons of James Millikin, present title holders, are without question conceded a place among the first five squads. Illinois Wesleyan boasts a long string of victories and promises to upset all figures, if she is not borne in mind when doping the tourney.

William and Vashli, Millikin, Illinois Wesleyan, Bradley and Augustana are the five teams most likely candidates for the titular shield, all the rest of the members of the "Little Eighteen" having met disaster many times during the past season, oft-times by almost swamping scores and it is safe to say that they need hardly be considered in the reckoning, except that they will wear away the strength of the faster teams and in that way may figure in the result.

Augie Meets Macomb.

The schedule is divided into two divisions, A and B, Augustana being classed by lot in the latter division. In each division two subordinate tourneys will be held, one for the winners and one for the losers. As soon as a team loses it plays against other losers, and the eventual winner of the games between the losers and the winner of the major games between the winners will meet similarly victorious teams from the other division. On the final day of the meet the winner of class A major tourney meets the winner of class B minor tourney, and the winner of class B major tourney meets the winner of class A minor tourney. The winners of these two games play for the title and the losers fight for third place in the final standing. By this schedule, as may easily be seen, each team must be defeated twice before it is out of the running—once in the major tourney and once in the minor games.

The Drawings.

The drawings for the initial games are:

IN CLASS A.
Blackburn vs. Millikin.
Charleston Normal vs. Lombard.
Winner of second game in class A vs. Shurtliff.
Hedding vs. Lincoln.
William and Vashli vs. Eureka.

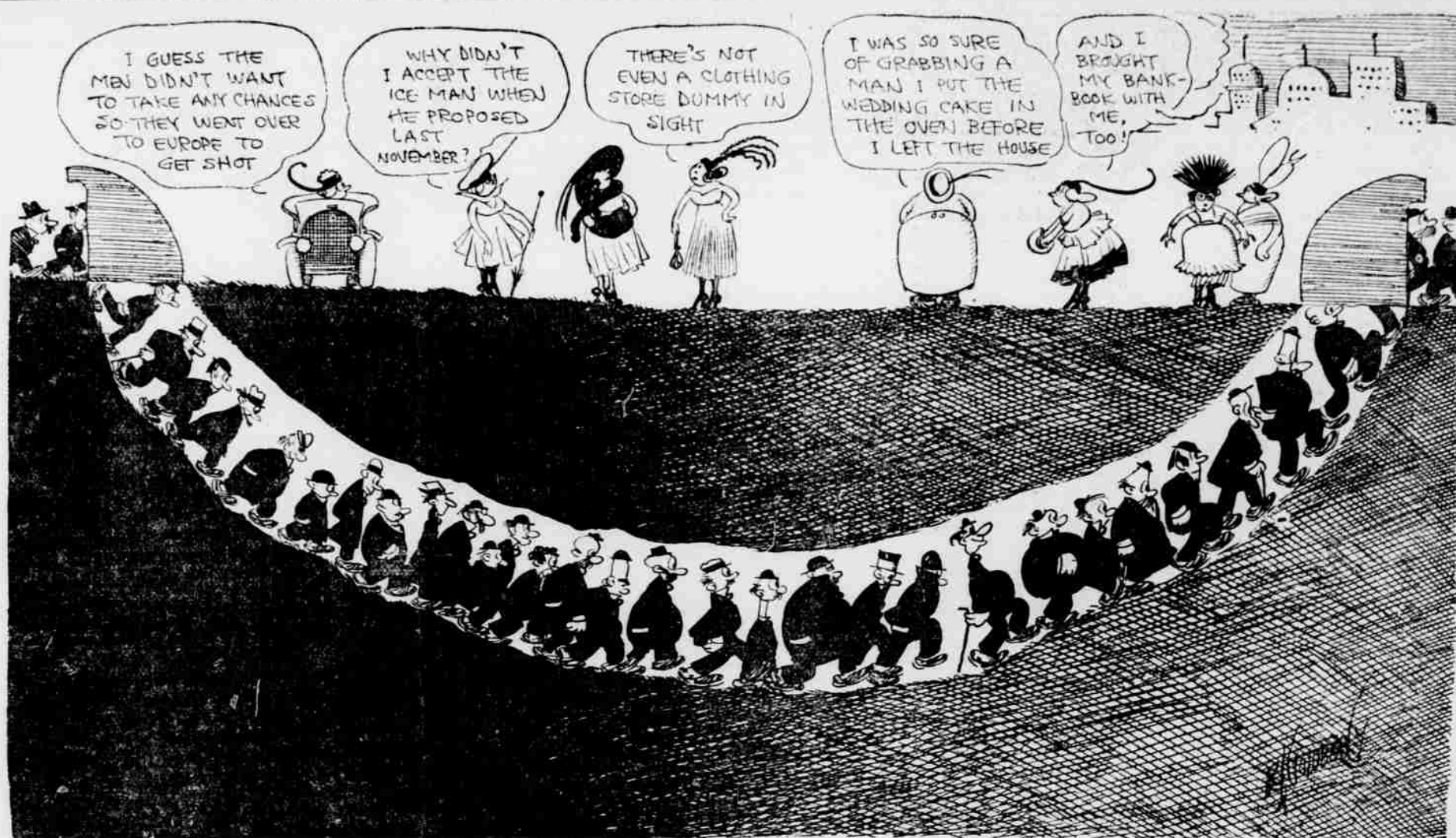
IN CLASS B.
Illinois Wesleyan vs. Illinois college.
Carbondale Normal vs. Carthage.
Winner of second game, class B, vs. Normal U.
Bradley vs. McKendree.
Augustana vs. Macomb Normal.

Cards at Work.

San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 29.—The Cardinal battery workers took their first workout yesterday afternoon at the San Antonio ball yard, lobbing the ball around and fungo hitting. The pitchers spent about half an hour running down bunts and covering the sacks.

The players spent the morning with a rum deck and at billiards when it was learned the water heating apparatus at the park was out of commission.

FEBRUARY 29! MEN MUST TUNNEL THEIR WAY TO WORK TO ESCAPE LEAP YEAR PROPOSALS—By Goldberg



TINKER SECURES ROOKIE CATCHER

Joe States That Cubs' Stable is Now Complete With the Possible Exception of Packard.

Chicago, Feb. 29.—Preparedness is the watchword of Joe Tinker, and for the first time since he assumed charge of a major league ball club he is satisfied. From now on he will devote his time to training the men he has under contract and no effort will be made to grab new athletes, something unusual in Joe's managerial life. He thinks the players now on the Cub roster can be organized into a flag winner.

The signing of another catcher, a youngster by the name of Harvey Russell, completed Tinker's 1916 plans, and while there is only a small chance for this maskman to stick after the training jaunt, Tinker, with his cry of "preparedness," purchased Russell because he has 13 pitchers under contract and he wants to give each man an opportunity of getting plenty of work and a chance to show everything he has in stock.

Russell was procured from Baltimore and was recommended by Mike Doolan, who played with him in the Federal league last season. This increased the North Side backstopping squad department to four, with Archer first catcher and Fischer first assistant. Then comes Clem Clemens and it remains for Russell to beat Clemens to the third catching job.

The Cub manager, after announcing the acquisition of Russell, was in a joyful mood. For the first time since he graduated into the boss class he asserts he is not scouting around for new material, and that Gene Packard was the only player needed to make the Cub team a flag hunter from the start.

Wolgast-Nelson Go Stopped.

Appleton, Wis., Feb. 29.—Another jolt was given upstate boxing yesterday when a ruling was received from the commission stating that Battling Nelson would not be permitted to meet Ad Wolgast here. The commission holds that Nelson is too far gone to meet a man of Wolgast's caliber. They had been signed to meet here April 12.

Duke Kills White Chamolx.

Vienna. (Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—To the Vienna taxidermist who treats specimens intended for the royal museum has just been delivered the hide and frame of a white chamolx, killed on Aug. 28, 1913, by the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, while in the company of his wife, the Duchess of Hohenberg. The fact recalls the superstition of the people of the Austrian Alpine countries that the hunter who kills a white chamolx dies within a year.

On the day mentioned the archducal couple was at Castle Bluebnach in the Salzburg Alps. The surroundings of the castle are of rare Alpine beauty, and at one time their forests and rock fastnesses were the habitat of great numbers of game, among them the chamolx, but these had become a rarity. Great was the surprise therefore, when a forester of the estate announced that he had seen a white chamolx on a rock near the castle.

Archduke Francis Ferdinand expressed his desire to hunt the animal. The duchess insisted that she accompany him. The forester explained what the superstition concerning the killing of a white chamolx was. But the archduke said he wanted the rare animal for his collection of hunting trophies in Castle Konopischt.

The hunt was soon over. A bullet sped by the archduke brought the white chamolx. In June, 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife, the Duchess von Hohenberg, were assassinated.

All the news all the time.—The Argus.

WOOD SAYS KINK HAS LEFT HIS ARM



Joe Wood.

Boston, Feb. 29.—Joe Wood, the smoke-ball king of the Boston Red Sox, believes the final kink has left his arm and that he will be ready to pick up in 1916 where he left off in 1915.

Wood, a fine, clean type of the earnest athlete, is one of the great pitchers of the game. You failed to hear as much about him last season as of many others, and yet with an arm that was only slowly getting into shape he worked in 25 games and was the most effective pitcher in his circuit, allowing fewer earned runs to start than even that nonpareil from Weiser, Idaho, and Washington, D. C., Walter Johnson.

Wood has been training intelligently all winter. He is starting his ninth season in the American league, and yet today is only 26 years old. If he can iron away that one kink in the old whip, he should be good for another 10 years.

If Wood is at his best, and he remains with Boston, the Red Sox staff should be the greatest that baseball ever knew—greater than the Cuff staff of 1906; the Mackian staff that included Bender, Coombs and Plank at their best.

STATE BASKET MEET AWARDED TO DECATUR

Decatur, Ill., Feb. 29.—Decatur was today awarded the Illinois high school basketball tournament by J. H. Newton, vice president of the Illinois High School Athletic association. The tournament will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 10 and 11. Teams which will compete are Bloomington, Springfield, Arthur, Rockford, Moline, Canton, Granite City, Duquoin, East Aurora and Joliet.

Meyers Now Fat Man.

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 29.—Jack Coombs planned to put the Brooklyn Dodgers to their first real test of the season's training yesterday, following a vacation due to a bad break in the weather man's curves. Chief Meyers and Nap Rucker, dodging fat man honors, weighed in yesterday, and the Indian proved heavier by seven pounds.

Spencer Red Belts Win.

In a fast game staged last night at the Longfellow school gymnasium the Spencer Red Belts basketball team of Rock Island won over the Moline Mixers by a score of 13 to 10. The lineup follows:

Red Belts—Olson, Smith and Roberts, forwards; Duffin, center; Topo and Buckert, guards.
Mixers—Hood and Seth, forwards; Roseme, center; Morey and Meyers, guards.

BOXER HAS A NEW KNOCKOUT PUNCH

Johnny O'Leary, Seattle Performer, Shows Philadelphia Fans the "Texas Tommy" Kick.

Philadelphia, Feb. 29.—Johnny O'Leary of Seattle, Wash., who claims the lightweight championship of Canada and who sent Solly Burns of Los Angeles over the slumberland route Saturday night, in a statement yesterday declared he is after a match with Champion Freddie Welsh and that his manager will start negotiations immediately.

O'Leary also explained his "Texas Tommy" punch, which is the talk of pugilistic circles here. It is a new one in the east and with it O'Leary expects to climb on the lightweight throne. Here is the dope on how the westerner used the "Texas Tommy" on Solly Burns:

Tommy rushed into a clinch and as he pulled away, whirled his opponent around. For an instant Burns' back was turned and when he got back into his original position O'Leary slammed him with a hook. Burns went down for the count of nine twice and the third time he stayed down for keeps.

COMMISS TO HANDLE FUNDS IN HEAVY GO

New York, Feb. 29.—Tex Rickard and others connected with the promotion of the Willard-Moran bout here March 25 conferred yesterday with the New York state athletic commission and agreed to comply with all rules of the commission. A manifest of the tickets for the match shows that 13,000 have been printed. Twelve thousand are for seats ranging in price from \$3 to \$25, while the remainder are for standing room.

All money taken in will be subject to the orders of the commission. In order that no one may attach the purses of the fighters the commission will not make public the name of the stakeholder.

BIRDS UNDISTURBED ALONG FIGHT FRONT

Paris. (Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—Bird life along the battle front appears to have been little disturbed by the continual thundering of guns. Birds disappeared from the war zone after the battle of the Marne, and some naturalists attributed their migration to the din of war. They came back again, however, and little by little accustomed themselves to the noise of explosives and even find an advantage in being close to the conflict where there is ample nourishment around the soldiers' quarters. Doves and wild pigeons are the most abundant, while there are many cuckoos, thrushes, crows, magpies and jays. Starlings are very common, nesting in trees as close as they find them in the trenches. Monsieur Louis Rousseau, a well known ornithologist, has discovered that the war has changed the character of these birds and made them thrifty. He has found their nests in the holes of dead oaks, with a provision of bread crumbs stored away prudently underneath. Doves fly about between the two lines, paying no attention to the bursting shrapnel, and none of them appear to be afraid of either aeroplanes, observation balloons, or dirigibles.

Buzzards are everywhere along the front, and they seem to find particular amusement in circling around the observation balloons.

Monsieur Rousseau finds game very abundant in the section of the front where he is, due partly to the suppression of shooting since the war began, but mostly, he thinks, to the invasion which drove game ahead of it toward the Marne. Deer and stags are very numerous, in spite of a great deal of poaching on the part of peasants. On the other hand, rabbits are very rare. Wild boars are seen in places they were never known to fre-

quent; a litter of wolves was found in a ditch beside the road near which territorialists were digging a trench, and two others were found in an abandoned trench 1,500 yards away from any stream! Polecats, martens and weasels have almost entirely disappeared, their places taken by rats and mice.

CLEVELAND SKATER IS BADLY INJURED

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 29.—A start was made in the annual international skating championships at Duquesne garden last night, two contests being finished. In the quarter mile Ben O'Sickey of Cleveland, Ohio, was the winner, while in the two mile race Carl Fisher of Milwaukee won.

Ben O'Sickey had the misfortune to fall just when he seemed to be winner of the two mile race, and Cody of Toronto struck him in the chest, hurting him badly. Anton O'Sickey, the other Cleveland skater, was second in the two mile final. Fred Robson of Toronto broke his own record of :06.35 for 60 yards, dashing off the distance in :06.

CONFIDENTLY AWAIT COMING OF B. KAUFF

New York, Feb. 29.—The Giants' management expects Benny Kauff to be waiting, grip in hand, for the last chance special to Marlin Springs, Texas, when the train leaves Friday, carrying the final batch of John McGraw's men.

"We expect Kauff to go along with Tesreau, Lobert and Stroud," said the statement.

Kauff has not yet announced his intention of waiving his high salary demands, however.

Ban Off Gotham Club.

New York, Feb. 29.—The New York State athletic commission announced late yesterday that it had lifted the suspension imposed upon the American Sporting club of this city. Chairman Wenck stated that Manager Connelly of the club had agreed to withdraw the proposed bout between white and negro boxers and make no further attempts to stage mixed bouts.

Rossman Goes to Wichita.

Wichita, Kan., Feb. 29.—Claude Rossman, former Detroit American first baseman, notified President Mills Ebright of the Wichita Western league baseball club yesterday that he has accepted terms to play here this season.

WILLARD'S MATCH WITH MORAN IS TO BE FAIR IS CLAIM

Chairman of New York Boxing Commission Puts Official Stamp on the Proceedings.

CHAMPION IS SHOWING SPEED

Johnny Ertle, Little Performer, Meets Jess in the Ring, but They Only Shake Hands.

New York, Feb. 29.—The largest champion in the world, Jess Willard, and one of the smallest boxers, "Peewee" Johnny Ertle, met in the ring at the Pioneer Athletic club yesterday. They shook hands, but did not box, as a big crowd of New Yorkers eagerly watched every move of their big 160, cheering and applauding.

Willard put in a busy day and started early in the morning with a long jaunt through Central park. The blinding cold air and the stiff wind were just to the big fellow's liking, and when he got back to his hotel near the park he was as warm as toast and perspiring.

The crowd at the Pioneer Athletic club was larger on the opening day, and Willard went through his usual routine of training stunts. The crowd was surprised and applauded at the speed Willard showed in shadow boxing and in his bouts with Hemple and Monahan.

Chairman Wenck of the boxing commission attended yesterday's exhibition and was pleased with Willard's agility and fine condition. The commission has put its official stamp on the bout and announced that the promoters had complied with every requirement of the state law. Promoter Rickard has gone even beyond this and has consented to deposit all the money involved in the bout in a bank at the commission's order.

"We are perfectly satisfied," said Chairman Wenck, "that everything connected with this bout is above board, and the promoters have done everything in their power to assure us that they are acting in the best faith. If the bout itself should not come up to the expectations of the public it will not be the fault of anyone connected with the promoting or management of the contest."

Frank Moran sent word from Saratoga that he will break camp there next week and come to this city to finish his training at "Dad" Hawkins.

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